

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC**  
200 Main Street, P.O. Box 1300 - Wellfleet, MA 02667-1300  
Worship Services – Sundays at 8:30a.m. and 10:00a.m.

**The Rev. Jon Elsensohn**  
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When I was younger, my grandmother's house was quite literally "over the river and through the woods." Heading over for Thanksgiving meant crossing field, forest, and stream in order to join our gathered family. That journey, from Connecticut to Rhode Island, became as much a part of the tradition as the turkey and cranberry sauce.

Journeys, however brief, offer us a new way of looking at our lives. The trials we face -those as mundane as needing to find a gas station, or as disastrous as a broken-down car- can make us more appreciative of the welcome we receive when we arrive. They remind us of our purpose in setting out, and the joys that await us at journey's end.

The end of our journey to Thanksgiving always ended in my Grandmother's kitchen. There we would be greeted with hugs and kisses, the warmth of the woodstove filling the house, and the scents of the meal hanging in the air. As a child, this was one of my first understandings of what it meant to be content, and to be thankful.

This month whether you travel to be with family and friends, or if you find your own home the destination for loved ones, I pray that you will have the chance to experience a time of joy, contentment, and thankfulness. May the God who so richly blesses our lives be with each one of you as you celebrate.



## LOOKING FORWARD....

After a pause during the month of October, we are resuming our Listening Sessions here at First Congregational. These guided group discussions afford us the chance to hear from all of our members about the joys, challenges, and hopes they encounter during their faith journey. Our goal is to have every member of the congregation participate, so be sure to sign up in Fellowship Hall or online.

Have you ever wondered why “It’s A Wonderful Life” has such a lasting impact on our holiday season? Take a deeper dive into this beloved Christmas classic this Advent! Each Wednesday, we will read a selection from “To Live Again” by Sheila Jacobs, watch companion scenes from the film, and discuss its meaning for our lives. If you are interested in attending, please speak to Pastor Jon or the church office.

One of our congregation’s greatest assets is our church building. In the coming year, we are looking to make more use of our space (particularly Fellowship Hall) as a venue to host wedding receptions, social gatherings, meetings, and community events. As we seek to put our best foot forward, that means updating our facilities. If you would like to be part of the discussion of how to beautify and update our space, you are cordially invited to attend a preliminary meeting on Sunday November 19th, immediately following worship. Grab a cup of coffee and share your ideas with us!

Please join us for our free

### *Community Lunch*

Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup> - Noon to 1:30pm



Soup, bread, salad and dessert

Everyone is welcome!

(Lunches will be held the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month, October-May)

First Congregational Church of Wellfleet

200 Main Street, Wellfleet

508-349-6877

## PRAYER LIST

Please contact the church office to add a name or update this list.  
“If one member suffers, all suffer together...If one member is honored, all rejoice together.”(1 Cor. 12:26) May the presence of Jesus Christ be with those on our PRAYER LIST and with those who care for them. Pray for:

*Gary Cooper*  
*Barbara Knapp*  
*Bob Oberding*  
*Todd Roy*  
*Dennis Ubriaco*

*John Garran*  
*Christy Milliken*  
*Candy Potts*  
*Carol Spencer*  
*Fred Vitek*

*Ann Kelley*  
*Gina O'Connor*  
*David Powers*  
*Jack Troxel*

And for those who are chronically ill and confined to their homes, nursing homes and hospitals. **Please notify the Pastor or the church office when family or friends are hospitalized.**

*We express our deepest sympathy to Paul and Mary Cullity on the death of Paul's mother, Joan Thompson who passed away on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Cards of expression may be sent to: Paul & Mary Cullity, 2 Berkshire Lane, Dover, NH 03820*

*We express our deepest sympathy to Sloan family on the death of Sue Jackson Sloan on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Sue was an active member of our congregation for many years. There will be a service of remembrance for Sue at 11:30am on December 10<sup>th</sup> in the sanctuary. A reception will follow immediately afterwards.*

*“In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God!”*

### **Remembering the Saints**

November 1st is All Saints Day, a time of memory and celebration when we call to mind all those who came before us. We honor not only the saints of old, but also those we have lost in the past year. Please forward names of loved ones lost between November 1, 2022 and October 31, 2023 to the church office, so that they may be included on our list, and read aloud during our All-Saints worship service

### **Board of Missions and Outreach**

Living Water Acupuncture Tuesdays from 3:00 to 6:00. Late Fall/Winter schedule: November 7, November 14, December 5, January 30, February 27. Ear acupuncture for substance use recovery, anxiety, depression, PTSD, chronic pain. Clinic assistant volunteers are always welcome.

**Board of Missions and Outreach meeting – Wednesday November 8, 4:30 PM** in Fellowship Hall and by Zoom. All members and friends are welcome to attend any of our meetings and are encouraged to suggest ideas for our church's missions and outreach efforts. For 2024 there are two openings on the Board and Pastor Jon will be active this coming year in helping the Board fulfill its role of outward focus into the community.

**Pre-Thanksgiving Pie Sale. Saturday November 18, 2023** at 10:00 AM until pies are sold. Fellowship Hall. If we bake them, they will sell! Make multiples of your favorite pie or apple crisp and/or consider a savory main-dish pie. Please drop off pies by 9 AM Saturday. This is an amazingly popular event and a wonderful fundraiser for our church.

**Monthly community lunches** at the church started again in September. Great turnout for October; next is Monday November 6. Sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

**Christmas Fair. Saturday December 9. Fellowship Hall.** Will include crafts for sale, craft table activity for children, Christmas cookies for sale, and a café area set up for soup and sandwich lunch. We are looking for new craft items for sale to expand our offerings. Interested crafters, please contact Charlotte Hands or Dot Oberding.

Our church, through the Board of Missions & Outreach, is one of the original members of the **Outer Cape Community Solutions Network** - stay tuned for updates about our ideas for partnering with local nonprofits to help serve the community.

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## LEGACY OF LOVE

As a community of faith, we offer our grateful thanks to Carol Loreto Maddox. Following her passing earlier this year, the church received a generous bequest left by Carol. Gifts such as this ensure that the life and ministry of this church will continue for generations to come.



We all are grateful for the legacy of love we enjoy from those who worshiped here before us. There are many opportunities to continue this legacy into the future. Last newsletter talked about opportunities for those of us receiving Required Minimum Distributions or RMD's. Another unique opportunity is available for those of us realizing a large capital gain this year from the sale of appreciated property or stock. The IRS offers an opportunity to deduct three years of charitable contributions this year through a Donor Advised Fund. If you are interested in learning more, please talk to your tax advisor or Rob Leatherbee, Treasurer, for more details of this and other unique opportunities to continue the legacy of love here in Wellfleet.

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS!



11/1 Donna Grout  
11/8 Paul Souza  
11/13 Kendra Lindberg  
11/14 Sarah Multer  
11/16 Dot Oberding  
11/19 Jennifer Elsensohn  
11/22 Juniper O'Campbell  
11/24 Lillian Young  
11/28 Nancy Porteus

## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

11/2 Tom & Charlotte Murphy  
11/7 Jane Corbin & Ken Oxtoby  
11/27 Bill & Cyndy Van Hook  
11/27 Jen & Jon Elsensohn

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### Nauset Neighbors Volunteer Opportunity

Want to make a difference in a neighbor's life? Join us at Nauset Neighbors, an all-volunteer non-profit organization, that helps senior stay in their homes and active in their communities. You can help by providing friendly visits, rides to appointments, tech assistance and simple handyman tasks. Volunteering is easy and flexible. Sign up online to help when it fits your schedule.

The members we help live in your communities of Brewster, Chatham, Eastham, Harwich, Orleans, and Wellfleet. We have a waiting list of seniors who need a hand. You can shorten their wait by volunteering with Nauset Neighbors.

Contact us at: [nausetneighbors.org](http://nausetneighbors.org) or call at 508-514-7067

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### **TELL A FRIEND ABOUT THE FOOD PANTRY!**

**Open Monday, 3-6; Wednesday 4-6, and Thursday 10-12**

Last year the Wellfleet Food Pantry provided food to 185 Wellfleet families, but we know there are more families who could use a little help. Would you help us by telling your friends who live in Wellfleet about the Food Pantry and invite them to come?

The Wellfleet COA delivers food boxes from the pantry twice per month to seniors who no longer drive, please call the COA at 508-349-0313 to sign up or get more information.

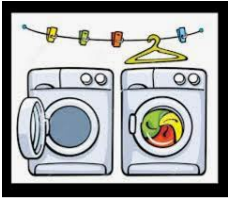
***Our volunteers thank you for your help.***

**WELLFLEET FOOD PANTRY - Food for Neighbors**

25 Lieutenant Island Road  
South Wellfleet, MA 02663  
508-349-3036 - Visit our website: [www.wellfleetfoodpantry.org](http://www.wellfleetfoodpantry.org)

**THANK YOU.....**





We would like to thank the church members (who wish to remain anonymous) for the generous gift of a new washer and dryer for the parsonage. We are blessed to be a part of community that has welcomed us with open arms and taken such good care of our needs. -Jen and Jon Elsensohn



Thank you to those who volunteered for the Community Luncheon on Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> . The next one is scheduled for November 6<sup>th</sup>, 12:00pm-1:30pm.



13 dogs and one cat were blessed during the Blessing of the Animals on October 1<sup>st</sup>.



Gerry Nolin & Dickens



Richard Robicheau & Stormy



Sarah Multer & her kitties

### White Gift Sunday – December 3<sup>rd</sup>

You're invited to bring a toy wrapped in white paper and marked for a boy or a girl. Please consider teen members of our communities whose families are in need. Stop & Shop offers a variety of gift cards for purchase, such as iTune cards, Barnes & Noble, Best buy and American Express gift cards. Please label gift card **"for teenager"** or **"for child"**. Gifts for teens will be donated to the Lower Cape Outreach and children's gifts will be donated to Mass Appeal for distribution.



The Wellfleet Fire Departments is collecting new, un-wrapped toys until Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

If you would like to donate a new toy, there is a donation box located in the Narthex. Final collection from the church will be December 1<sup>st</sup>.

## 2023 Lower Cape CROP Hunger Walk

The Crop Walk was a success, surpassing the goal of \$15,000, after selling raffle tickets and providing support throughout the year.

Twenty five percent of the money we have raised will help the Wellfleet Food Pantry, other Food Pantries run by the Lower Cape Outreach Council, and the 246 Kitchen. The rest will provide relief from food insecurity around the country and the world through the programs of Church World Service. This will include supporting sustainable farming programs, clean water for communities, support for refugees, and critical help after disasters such as fires, hurricanes, and earthquakes.

Thank you so much to everyone for your support and generosity. Those who still wish to contribute can do so with a check made out to CWS/Crop Walk or with a donation on our website [crophungerwalk.org/lowercape](http://crophungerwalk.org/lowercape). Thank you!

George Vitek



## **IN MEMORY OF DIANNE EIB, CHURCH MEMBER, MODERATOR**

by Susan Eenigenburg

I have felt a need to commemorate our prior Moderator, Dianne Eib. As I write this in April 2023, it is two years since her passing on April 18, 2021, At that time, due to the pandemic, our church was still closed. We were unable to gather at that time for a memorial service. Dianne's Connecticut family held a memorial service in Manchester, CT.

I don't have the exact date she began serving as our Moderator, but the earliest email I have from her is 4/2013. Dianne had the gift of being laconic, always responding with a minimum of words, just what was necessary. I found her leadership "just right," with her forthright style, always responding from a place of loving understanding. She came with an abundance of leadership skills: Dianne had served 30 years as head nurse of a hospital critical care unit before she retired.

During Rev. Paul Cullity's pastorate, I worked closely with Dianne in several church areas. She became a mentor to me as she transitioned from being chair of Pastor/Staff/Parish Relations Committee, training me to become chair. During this time, Dianne, with church volunteers, started Community Luncheons as an outreach ministry to our local community. It ran well from October-May for some years before we had to stop, due to the pandemic's precautions.

Dianne gave me a wonderful gift in early 2018 of picking me up from my home in North Eastham and driving me to Falmouth Hospital where I was scheduled for a knee replacement. Also in 2018, I served with her on the Interim Search Committee, which found Rev. Dr. Sheila Rubdi for our interim pastor. I know Sheila valued Dianne for her leadership and friendship, and when Dianne began having signs of a neurological disorder, Sheila and Victor transported Dianne to multiple MD appointments from her home in Truro and back.

As her neurological condition, small at first, enlarged to become a major disease, I stayed in touch with her during the pandemic through emails. Still active in April 2020, she seconded the sick leave policy the church proposed for staff members. In May, she commented on her moderator role of opening the video recorded service that took the place of in-person services during the pandemic: "It was a new experience and I have to admit that it took three tries." The last email I have is dated 10/19/20, I wrote to her, "Dianne, my heart was touched this morning by how well you communicated in the (stated fall) meeting. I imagine, given your spinal cord injury and its effect on your speech, that it took all of you to do as well as you did. I continue with my daily prayers for your health and well-being." She replied, "Dear Susan, Thank you for your kind words. Thank you for your prayers and offers of help. Love, Dianne." I then lost direct communication with Dianne. I communicated my concern and prayers through Sheila and her contact with Dianne's daughter, Kristen. Dianne was a quiet soul, one who suffers quietly. Thank you for listening to my need to remember a very special person. In Christ's love, we each become precious to one another.



# First Congregational Church of Wellfleet – November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1 All Saints Day</b> 9:00-2pm – MS	2 11:00am Pastor/Staff Parish Relations mtg.	3	4 Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA
<b>5 Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost</b> 8:30am Early Svc. 9am – Choir reh. 10:00am Worship, Comm. 11:15am – Luncheon 3:00pm Pastor Jon’s Installation	<b>6</b> 8-10am – MS 12:00-1:30pm – Community Luncheon 	<b>7</b> 8:00-11am – MS 9am-1pm - WHS 3-5:30pm - Living Water Acupuncture Clinic	<b>8</b> 9:00-2pm – MS 12:00pm – Listening Session 4:30pm - Mission & Outreach	<b>9</b>	<b>10 Veterans Day observed</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>11</b> Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA
<b>12 Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost</b> 8:30am – Early Svc. 9am – Choir reh. 10:00am -Worship 11:15am – Fellowship hour	<b>13</b> 8-10am – MS	<b>14</b> 8:00-11am – MS 3-5:30pm - Living Water Acupuncture Clinic 7:00pm – Listening Session	<b>15</b> 9:00-2pm – MS 7:00pm – Trustees mtg.	<b>16</b> 4:30pm – Listening Session	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Custodian cleans in morning 10:00am -Pie Sale 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA
<b>19 Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost</b> 8:30am – Early Svc. 9am – Choir reh. 10:00am- Worship 11:15am – Fellowship hour/Renovation Mtg.	<b>20</b> 8-10am – MS	<b>21</b> 8:00-11am – MS	<b>22</b> 9:00-2pm – MS	<b>23 Thanksgiving</b> <b>Office closed</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>25</b> Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA
<b>26 Reign of Christ</b> 8:30am Early Svc. 9am- Choir Reh. 10:00am Worship 11:15am – Fellowship Hour	<b>27</b> 8-10am – MS	<b>28</b> 8:00-11am – MS 10:30am – Care Team 7:00pm – Listening Session	<b>29</b> 9:00-2pm – MS 12:30pm – Advent Class	<b>30</b> 4:30pm – Listening Session		AA = Alcoholics Anonymous FMC= Financial Management Comm. MS = Mustard Seed WHS = Wellfleet Historical Society Handicap Accessible